

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend Claim 6 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
a conveying rotary member;  
a biasing rotary member, which is in contact with said conveying rotary member, nips a sheet on which an image is formed, together with said conveying rotary member, and conveys the sheet along said conveying rotary member;  
an image sensor which reads the image on the sheet conveyed to an image reading position opposed to a lowermost point of said conveying rotary member; and  
a pair of pressing plates which are arranged on both sides in an axial direction of said conveying rotary member and presses the sheet against the image reading position, wherein a tread of said conveying rotary member and surfaces of said pressing plates opposed to said image sensor are colored white .

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,  
wherein each of said pressing plates has a guide surface which guides the sheet.

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein each of said pressing plates is pressed against the image reading position by a spring.

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said pressing plates are formed of an elastic member.

6. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said biasing rotary member is disposed on ~~each of~~ an upstream side and another biasing rotary member is disposed at a downstream side of the image reading position.

7. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 6,

wherein said biasing rotary member on the upstream side of the image reading position has a diameter smaller than a diameter of said biasing rotary member on the downstream side of the image reading position.

8. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a book-like original reading mechanism which includes a platen glass on which a book-like original is mounted, and a platen bringing the book-like original into close contact with said platen glass, and being capable of reading the book-like original as said image sensor moves under the platen glass.

9. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 8,

wherein said platen has a discharged sheet stacking portion, on which a sheet discharged by a discharge roller is stacked, on an upper surface thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

an original mounting stand on which a sheet having an image formed thereon is stacked;

a pickup roller which feeds the sheet on said original mounting stand; and  
a separation unit which separates the sheets conveyed by pickup roller one by one.

11. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 10,

wherein said separation unit comprises a separation roller and a friction member which nip to separate the sheets one by one.

12. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image reading apparatus which reads an image formed on a sheet; and  
an image forming portion which forms the image read by said image reading  
apparatus on a sheet,  
wherein said image reading apparatus is the image reading apparatus  
according to any one of Claims 1 and 3-11.